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wholly within his control, and none can gainsay nor interfere with his right to administer any narcotic when and where he deems it necessary.

The so-called "cures" are legion, and in their very multiplicity is the surest evidence of their futility. The drug habit, long maintained, produces profound changes in the economy. The very hopelessness of the task, so long as the cause of the trouble was widely distributed and easily accessible, led to a certain indifference and carelessness in the application of remedial measures. The problem must now be attacked from a new vantage point. Hospitals hitherto closed to this class of patients are already realizing their responsibilities in the premises, and rules as to admission have been modified. Too much stress can not be laid upon the principle, so clearly outlined by Dr. Alexander Lambert,<sup>1</sup> that "Each individual case has its own separate problems"; and his methods and results are worthy of study and trial.

Whatever else be done, care should be taken that in discussion or action nothing be said or done which shall weaken the law or strengthen quackery, whether individual or institutional. Time must be allowed in which to put the machinery of the law in smooth running order. When this is effected and everyone fully informed, a careful survey of its workings in a dozen or more large centers of population, followed, if necessary, by ruthless infliction of penalties upon its violators will have a most enlightening and salutary effect. Then and not until then will there be any real hope for the drug addict. No sentimentalism, no greedy commercialism, should be allowed to deprive him of this chance.

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### QUININE TO BE SOLD AT COST IN VENEZUELA.

The following extract from a statement regarding a decree of the president of Venezuela, dated December 19, 1914, is taken from the daily Commerce Reports, issued by the United States Department of Commerce:

"In order to extend the use of quinine, and to secure a good quality at a reduced price, the national health office shall establish stores in which quinine will be sold at cost; charitable institutions (public or private), the regular army, and wholesale and retail drug stores may also be supplied at cost. The distribution and inspection of the quinine which is imported, distributed, and sold for the Government, shall be regulated by the Department of the Interior (Relaciones Interiores)."

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<sup>1</sup>J. Am. Med. Assoc. 1913, 60:1933. For an extended bibliography, see also *Ibid.*, 1915, 64:1022.